

**A. AMENDMENTS TO SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the first paragraph on page 1 with the following amended paragraph:

**RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application claims priority from U.S. Provisional Patent Application Number 60/264,331, (Attorney Docket No. 52637-[[0035]] 0034) entitled "A METHOD FOR ADAPTIVE BIT ASSIGNMENT AND FINE GAIN ~~SETTING~~ ADJUSTMENT IN A MULTI-CARRIER COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM," filed January 25, 2001, and naming Andrew Storm as inventor. The contents of the aforementioned priority application are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety for all purposes.

Please amend the ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE as indicated hereinafter:

~~Bit~~Bits are assigned to channels of a discrete modulation communications system. A first set of channels and a second set of channels are selected from a plurality of channels in the communications system. The first and second set of channels are selected in order to re-assign one or more bits from the first set of channels to the second set of channels so as to cause a performance characteristic of one or more channels in the communications system to improve.